

CLAIMS

1. An emission enhancing coating for a surface, which coating comprises at least one electrically conductive transparent film and at least two non-conductive films, wherein the conductive and non-conductive films have been applied alternately on top of one another.
- 5 2. A coating according to claim 1, wherein the total thickness of the coating is smaller than the wavelength of the radiation to be emitted by the surface.
- 10 3. A coating according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the total thickness of the coating is at most 100 micrometers.
4. A coating according to claim 3, wherein the total thickness of the coating is at most 20 micrometers.
- 15 5. A coating according to claim 4, wherein the total thickness of the coating is at most 5 micrometers.
6. A coating according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein the electrically
20 conductive film comprises a metal.
7. A coating according to claim 6, wherein the conductive film comprises a metal chosen from the group of chrome, nickel and rhodium.
- 25 8. A coating according to any one of claims 1-7, wherein the electrically conductive transparent film comprises a semiconductor chosen from the group of doped metal oxides, conductive nitrides and carbides.

9. A coating according to claim 8, wherein the semiconductor is chosen from the group of, preferably, tin-doped indium oxide, fluorine-doped tin oxide and aluminum-doped zinc oxide.

5

10. A coating according to any one of claims 1-9, wherein each of the electrically conductive and non-conductive films is transparent.

11. A coating according to any one of claims 1-10, wherein the
10 non-conductive film comprises a non-conductive material chosen from the group of non-conductive metal oxides, metal fluorides, metal carbides and metal nitrides.

12. A coating according to claim 11, wherein the non-conductive films
15 comprise silicon oxide.

13. An article with a surface with a low emissivity to which a coating according to any one of claims 1-12 has been applied.

20 14. An article according to claim 13, wherein, as a first film, a non-conductive transparent film has been applied to the surface.

15. A metal foil to which a coating according to any one of claims 1-12 has been applied.

25

16. A solar cell to which a coating according to any one of claims 1-12 has been applied.

17. A light reflector to which a coating according to any one of claims 1-12
30 has been applied.

18. A method for applying an emission enhancing coating according to any one of claims 1-12 to a surface, wherein the conductive and non-conductive films have been applied alternately on top of one another to
5 the surface.

19. A method according to claim 18, wherein, as a first film, a non-conductive transparent film has been applied to the surface.

AMENDED CLAIMS

**[Received by the International Bureau on 09 December 2004 (09.12.2004);
original claims 1-19 replaced by amended claims 1-19 (3 pages)]**

1. An emissivity enhancing coating for a surface with a low emissivity, which coating comprises at least one electrically conductive transparent film and at least two non-conductive films which non-conductive films each have a thickness of 500 nm to 1500 nm, and wherein the conductive and non-
5 conductive films have been applied alternately on top of one another.
2. A coating according to claim 1, wherein the total thickness of the coating is smaller than the wavelength of the radiation to be emitted by the surface.
- 10 3. A coating according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the total thickness of the coating is at most 100 micrometers.
4. A coating according to claim 3, wherein the total thickness of the coating is at most 20 micrometers.
- 15 5. A coating according to claim 4, wherein the total thickness of the coating is at most 5 micrometers.
6. A coating according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein the electrically
20 conductive film comprises a metal.
7. A coating according to claim 6, wherein the conductive film comprises a metal chosen from the group of chrome, nickel and rhodium.
- 25 8. A coating according to any one of claims 1-7, wherein the electrically conductive transparent film comprises a semiconductor chosen from the group of doped metal oxides, conductive nitrides and carbides.

9. A coating according to claim 8, wherein the semiconductor is chosen from the group of, preferably, tin-doped indium oxide, fluorine-doped tin oxide and aluminum-doped zinc oxide.
- 5 10. A coating according to any one of claims 1-9, wherein each of the electrically conductive and non-conductive films is transparent.
11. A coating according to any one of claims 1-10, wherein the non-conductive film comprises a non-conductive material chosen from the group of non-conductive metal oxides, metal fluorides, metal carbides and metal nitrides.
- 10 12. A coating according to claim 11, wherein the non-conductive films comprise silicon oxide.
- 15 13. An article with a surface with a low emissivity to which a coating according to any one of claims 1-12 has been applied.
14. An article according to claim 13, wherein, as a first film, a non-conductive transparent film has been applied to the surface.
- 20 15. A metal foil to which a coating according to any one of claims 1-12 has been applied.
- 25 16. A solar cell to which a coating according to any one of claims 1-12 has been applied.
17. A light reflector to which a coating according to any one of claims 1-12 has been applied.
- 30

18. A method for applying an emission enhancing coating according to any one of claims 1-12 to a surface, wherein the conductive and non-conductive films have been applied alternately on top of one another to the surface.
- 5 19. A method according to claim 18, wherein, as a first film, a non-conductive transparent film has been applied to the surface.

STATEMENT UNDER ARTICLE 19 (1)

In claim 1 the phrase "An emission enhancing coating for a surface" has been replaced by the phrase "An emissivity enhancing coating for a surface with a low emissivity". Basis for this amendment is found on page 1, lines 21 and 22 of the patent application as originally filed. Please further note that the wording of claim 1 has been amended so as to define each of the non-conductive layers as having a thickness of 500 to 1500 nm. Basis for this amendment can be found on page 3, line 2 of the patent application as originally filed. Claim 1 has been amended to make sure that its subject matter differs from the contents of US 5,251,202.